GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4276
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2000
CONSUMER COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES IN DELHI
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the aims and objectives to authorize some cooperative consumer societies like Super Bazar and National Cooperative Consumer Federation (NCCF) in Delhi to make supplies of stationary, office automation, furniture and other items to the Government departments making it obligatory for the Government offices to buy items from them only;

(b) the extent to which the aims and objectives have been achieved and the reasons for many Government offices resorting for calling open tenders and quotations;

(c) whether the system brought any decrease in the Government expenditure and whether the Government propose to review the order making incumbent on Government offices to make purchase from those societies;

(d) whether those societies introducing suppliers one after the other of the items irrespective of ratio between the sale of those items giving the lists of items where more number of suppliers have been enrolled in comparison to sales thereof;

(e) the reasons therefor and whether the Government propose to inquire into those cases; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTIRBUTION (SHRI V. SREE PRASAD)

(a), (b) & (c): Government of India, having taken note of the fact that objectives of the cooperatives was to ensure supply of quality goods and services to the consumers at most economic and competitive prices, had issued, in 1968, guidelines to all State/UT Governments to the effect that Government offices should patronize the consumer cooperative stores while making purchase of their requirements. The Department of Personnel and Training in consultation with the Ministry of Finance and the erstwhile Ministry of Works and Housing had issued the Office Memorandum dated 14th July, 1981, wherein it has been made incumbent on all the Central Government Offices to make their purchase of stationery and other items from Kendriya Bhandar only. Subsequently, the Super Bazar, Delhi and NCCF were included in the above mentioned O.M. in 1987 and 1994 respectively as both these cooperative societies are registered under the Multi-State Cooperative Societies Act and Government of India are major shareholders in these two organizations. Notwithstanding the above O.M., the Central Government Offices have a choice to call for tenders/quotations, in case of purchase of some special items. The ultimate aim of the Government offices is to buy items of good quality at reasonable and competitive prices. No study has, however, been carried out to indicate whether there had been any decrease in the Government expenditure on purchase of stationery and other items by following the procedures as laid down in the DOPT`s O.M. of 1981.The review of this policy is, however, an on-going process.

(d), (e) & (f): The NCCF, the Super Bazar, Delhi and the Kendriya Bhandar are autonomous cooperative organizations having their own Board of Directors to decide about their administrative and other business matters. Government of India do not interfere in these matters as the business policy of these organizations is guided by their financial and other operational considerations.